UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

March 31, 1995

Michael Kierig
NEC Electronics, Inc.
475 Ellis Street MV-4511
Mountain View, CA 94039-7241

Subject: EPA's Review of the Phase IV Soil Investigation 501 Ellis Street Property Report, Submitted July 1991

Dear Mr. Kierig:

In accordance with the provisions of Section XIV of the CERCLA §106 Order, the above referenced Phase IV Soil Investigation 501 Ellis Street Property Report is conditionally approved contingent on addressing the following comments to EPA's satisfaction.

To simplify the final approval of this document, the responses to EPA's comments can be submitted as an addendum in a letter-report format. To facilitate final approval of the document draft responses to EPA's comments should be submitted for approval before final submission of the addendum.

The addendum to the subject report will be due to EPA by May 26, 1995.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

1. In general, the Phase IV Soil Investigation Report evaluates the presence of contamination in relation to the presence of trichloroethene (TCE) above the established clean up criteria of 0.5 parts per million in soil. Though evaluation of TCE concentrations is required, the 501 Ellis street property utilized many other chemicals that are also chemicals of concern as listed in the §106 Order. In reviewing the data and the occurrence of detections throughout the past investigations at the facility, there are several other chemicals that are present at the 501 facility which should be evaluated. Criteria for determining these chemicals should include the number of detections of the constituent and the presence of chemicals above their Federal or State applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs). The Explanation of Significant Difference clearly states that "all chemicals must be remediated so that their respective concentrations are at or below applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements and do not exceed maximum cumulative risk levels."

At a minimum, the report should evaluate the following additional chemicals to determine if levels detected exceed ARARs, and the locations of these detections; freon 113, trichlorobenzenes, phenol, and tetrachloroethene. Locations of detections of freon 113 and trichlorobenzene were presented on figures 3.8 through 3.11, however there was no evaluation of their toxicity or clean up criteria. Table 1.5 shows that 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene and freon 113 have been detected in half the samples analyzed for the constituents. TCE, 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene, and phenol have been detected in approximately one third of the samples analyzed. Though tetrachloroethene was detected less often, it was detected above the clean up criteria at boring BIV-56.

Please evaluate the concentrations of these chemicals respective to the appropriate clean up criteria. In determining the appropriate ARARs for a constituent the most stringent level should be utilized regardless of whether it is a State or Federal ARAR.

2. Any chemical, if it exceeds its clean up criteria will need to be remediated. In Section 4.0 (pg. 68), the text states that the occurrence of some of the chemicals was localized and infrequent with the exception of TCE. All detections, whether infrequent or localized, need to be evaluated in regards to their appropriate ARARs.

3. The text states that head-space vapor sample data subjected to the Photovac that "was obviously an outlier" was excluded from the averaging calculation. NEC should elaborate on the criteria used to determine how or what data was considered an outlier.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these comments, please call me at (415) 744-2235.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Adams
EPA MEW Project Manager

cc: Janet Argyres, Bechtel Environmental, Inc.
A. Eric Madera, Raytheon (CD Parties)
Vincent T. Jones, Schlumberger (Order Parties)
Sandra Olliges, NASA Ames
Stephen Chao, Navy
Alana Lee, B&V Waste Science

Acknowledgement of Receipt:

_____ Date:_____
Michael Kierig